

Native American Federal Employees Council

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2004

Officers: Ruby Pippenger, Chair, NOAA NWS NRC
Crystal Wallace, Vice-Chair, USDA/NITC
Robin K. Hatfield, Secretary, FDA
Tonya Stonham, Alt-Secretary, DHS

In Attendance: Members and Guests (see end of report)

Where: USDA Facility, Beacon Street, Kansas City, MO

Opening and Minutes:

Ruby Pippenger called the meeting to order. Introductions were made all around. May 2004 minutes were accepted without change. January 2004 minutes were officially accepted.

Guest Presentations:

Cindy Hillman: Cindy Hillman thanked NAFEC for attending and supporting the American Indian Repository Records Dedication Ceremony (14 May 2004) Council members in attendance were Crystal Wallace, Kathy Mathias, Donna Stone, Jesse James, Ruby Pippenger, Cindy Schappe, Jana Moynihan and Robin K. Hatfield. She elaborated on the amount of planning that was necessary to make such an event successful. Council members who attended the FEB training "Project Equality and Stress Management" were presented with certificates. If you have not received your certificate and attended the training, please contact Robin K. Hatfield, NAFEC Secretary (Tel. 913- 752-2732, e-mail rhatfiel@ora.fda.gov)

Jessica James: Jessica James works at the Haskell Cultural Center and Museum. She reports that there is currently no curator or director at the museum. Jessica spoke about the Haskell Cultural Preservation Committee, provided the Council with brochures ("Haskell Cultural Center and Museum," "A Walking Tour of Haskell") a booklet ("Highlights of Haskell Institute: A Brief Sketch of the Half Century of Indian Education at Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas") and an outline of the events occurring to celebrate Haskell's 120th anniversary which coincides with Lawrence's sesquicentennial. She also gave us a copy of a letter for a petition of funds/donations to support the 120th anniversary program and/or the Cultural Center and Museum. For more information to make a **private** donation please contact Haskell Cultural Center and Museum at 785-832-6686, Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm or Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

Neil Lawhead: Neil is now working at Visible Horizons. He spoke about the services offered to Native youth such as the Saturday tutoring/mentoring programs and a field trip to a Wizards game. He also apprised us of a nutritional program, "The Path to Reclaiming a Healthy History." The focus is nutritional education emphasizing whole foods (much like the **traditional** diets of Native Americans) , while eliminating processed foodstuffs. Neil informed us of the upcoming events in the greater Kansas City Native community.

Specifically:

June 24th - Upward Bound Program Powwow

June 24th - 27th 11:00 am - 6:00 pm The Art Train at Union Station which included exhibits of American Indian art.

June 26th - Honor the Youth Day at Seton Center

July 3rd - 4th Federal agencies will be meeting at Berkeley Park. The Osage tribe plans to have a presence there

NAFEC Business:

2005 Officer Slate and Elections – A team is needed for this project. The slate presentation is due in August and elections will be held in September. The swearing in and presentation of new officers will be done at the November Lunch and Learn.

Lunch and Learn - The Native American Lunch and Learn will be in November 2005. We are still looking for a location and need to establish a definite date. We would like to invite tribal leaders and possibly have EPA's presentation on Working with Tribal Governments.

Quarterly Diversity Meeting - NAFEC will be holding its quarterly diversity meeting jointly with the Disabled Federal Employees Council. Volunteers are needed to chair and arrange the meeting.

Bylaws and Constitution - A committee needs to be assembled to update the bylaws and constitution of NAFEC.

FEB Business:

2004 Day of Caring - If you participated in this year's 2004 Day of Caring, please e-mail Robin (rhafiel@ora.fda.gov) with your name, your agency and the project you participated in. The information will be forwarded as a unit to FEB.

Unity Day – Unity Day is on September 21, 2004 at the Overland Park Community Center, 6000 College Boulevard. The cost is \$50.00 per person. Registration includes parking, training materials, continental breakfast, lunch, breakout sessions and a theatrical presentation on diversity. The breakout sessions are "Flash Judgements," "Personal Values Inventory," and "Horatio Alger." NAFEC plans on having a display table.

Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE):

SAIGE is continuing to work toward the removal of a mural from the EPA building in Washington D.C. The mural is offensive to American Indians.

SAIGE is also planning on holding a National Conference October 8-9, 2004, to correspond with the National Congress of American Indians. It will be two days before the NCAI meeting. The agenda is under construction. Tex Hall will be speaking.

SAIGE members are reminded that membership dues are payable during October. Retired American Indian federal employees are invited to join. If you are aware of any retirees that may be eligible please advise them to contact one of the board members or refer to the website. SAIGE items are available for sale on the SAIGE website. Please visit the website – it is available at their temporary location at <http://www.aipc.osmre.gov/SAIGE/home.htm> . Many of our NAFEC members are members of SAIGE, if you wish to join SAIGE please contact Jesse James, Donna Stone or Les Tate <mailto:ltate@hiwaay.net> – website url: <http://www.aipc.osmre.gov/SAIGE>

Heart of America Indian Center (HAIC):

There will be no summer school.

If you are interested in volunteering at the HAIC or would like to donate, please contact the HAIC (816) 421-7608 or contact <mailto:ckinghaic@aol.com> .

American Indian Parent Committee:

Joe Gray reports that there will be a Back to School Picnic August 7, 2004. During the picnic there will be a survey of students to see what they need. The AIPC also plans on approaching the KC, MO school district regarding Title VII funding. During the picnic, there will also be opportunities to donate supplies and funds for a good start in going back to school.

The AIPC meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Heart of America Indian Center.

General: Jessica James reported that the students were able to raise \$230.19 for Haskell's 120th anniversary celebration during the Junction City, KS Chautauqua.

Upcoming Events:

August 8 - 11, 2004 National Indian Health Board 21st Annual Consumer Conference, Oklahoma City, OK Theme: "Uniting for One Cause: Coming Together for the Greater Good"

September 21, 2004 Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C. on the Mall (Smithsonian Institute)

October 8 - 9, 2004 SAIGE National Conference

October 10 - 15, 2004 National Congress of American Indians 61st Annual Session, Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

For upcoming powwow information go to www.kcnativecommunity.org and click on the link for “Powwow Central.”

Member Attendees:

Bowman, Karen	FMS
Farley, Dohn	DFAS
Gray, Joseph	NPS
Hatfield, Robin K.	FDA
Hillman, Cindy	FEB
Mathias, Kathy	VA
Pippenger, Ruby	NOAA
Rios, Nancy	CMS
Stone, Donna	USDA-FSA
Schappe, Cindy	FBI
Wallace, Crystal	NITC-USDA

Guests:

James, Jessica	Haskell Cultural Center and Museum
Lawhead, Neil	Visible Horizons